

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4576

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

CINCPAC

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 0758

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ID

SUBJ: MALIK PRESS INTERVIEW IN SINGAPORE

1. INDONESIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK MADE BRIEF ONE-DAY STOPOVER IN SINGAPORE ON HIS RETURN HOME FROM ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE IN PATTAYA. IN AIRPORT INTERVIEW WITH STRAITS TIMES REPORTER ON FEBRUARY 12 MALIK SAID A NUMBER OF "TECHNICALLY DIFFICULT ISSUES" SHELVED BY THE PATTAYA CONFERENCE WOULD BE IRONED OUT AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS BEFORE THE BALI SUMMIT ON FEBRUARY 23. HE INDICATED THAT THIS MEETING WOULD BE PRECEDED BY ANOTHER MEETING OF ASEAN SENIOR OFFICIALS ON FEBRUARY 18-19 IN JAKARTA.

2. AS REPORTED IN STRAITS TIMES FEBRUARY 13 MALIK SAID HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE OUTCOME OF THE PATTAYA CONFERENCE AND STRESSED THAT PEOPLE SHOULD NOT EXPECT EVERY PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED IN ONE MEETING. WITH RESPECT TO SECURITY WITHIN THE ASEAN REGION HE SAID BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE MEMBER STATES

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ARE THE BEST WAY OF ENSURING THIS. HE DISMISSED THE LIKELIHOOD

OF ASEAN BECOMING A MILITARY BLOC. HE CITED BORDER COOPERATION BETWEEN INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA AND THAILAND AND MALAYSIA AS WELL AS INTELLIGENCE EXCHANGES AS EXAMPLES OF BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS ALREADY BEING PRACTICED. HE COMMENTED THAT IF MALAYSIA WERE TO NEED INDONESIAN HELP IN SECURITY PROBLEMS, INDONESIA "AS THE BIG BROTHER" WOULD RESPOND.

3. HE SAID HE DID NOT SEE AMERICAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN ASIA AS A GUARANTEE AGAINST THE COMMUNIST THREAT AND NOTED THAT "INDONESIA CAN TAKE CARE OF HERSELF. IF SINGAPORE FAVORS SUCH A PRESENCE, WELL IT HAS ITS REASONS. IF THE AMERICANS WANT TO BE HERE, THEY HAVE THEIR REASONS TOO."

4. HE SAID INDONESIA WOULD ESTABLISH TIES WITH PEKING "AS SOON AS POSSIBLE" BUT HE DID NOT THINK THIS WOULD IN ANY WAY CONTRIBUTE TO REDUCING COMMUNIST INSURGENCY IN INDONESIA. "BOTH THAILAND AND MALAYSIA HAVE SUCH TIES WITH PEKING BUT AS YOU CAN SEE THEY STILL HAVE INSURGENCY PROBLEMS." HE POINTED OUT HOWEVER THAT PEKING-JAKARTA TIES WOULD BE VALUABLE IN CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC FIELDS. HOLDRIDGE

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